



# SYNOPSIS

## Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions 2016 Maryland General Assembly Session

**February 4, 2016  
Schedule 16**

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**PLEASE NOTE:** February 5 – Bill introduction deadline.

All bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 8.

As required by Senate Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

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### **SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED February 4, 2016**

**SB 508**     **Senators Ramirez and Ferguson**

**CIVIL PENALTIES FOR SHOPLIFTING AND EMPLOYEE THEFT –  
REPEAL**

Repealing specified provisions establishing liability to a merchant for civil penalties for shoplifting and employee theft.

**EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016**

CJ, §§ 3-1301 through 3-1308 - repealed

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**Department of Legislative Services**

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

Other Maryland Areas: 1-800-492-7122 — Maryland Relay Service: 1-800-735-2258

**SB 509 Senator Waugh****REAL PROPERTY – ACTIONS TO QUIET TITLE**

Authorizing a specified action to be brought to establish title against adverse claims to property; providing for venue and the application of the Maryland Rules in an action under the Act; establishing requirements for a complaint, an answer to a complaint, naming of defendants, joinder of parties, and service of process in an action under the Act; authorizing the court to take specified actions; providing for the effect of a judgment; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

RP, § 14-108 - amended and §§ 14-601 through 14-621 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 510 Senators Astle and Middleton****ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANIES – RATE REGULATION –  
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**

Increasing to a maximum amount of \$4, up from \$2, a specified monthly natural gas surcharge for specified retail natural gas customers; authorizing an electric company to recover specified costs associated with specified electric system infrastructure investments through a specified electric system infrastructure investment surcharge on customer bills; requiring electric system infrastructure investment cost calculations to include specified elements; specifying when costs shall be collectible; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

PU, § 4-210(d)(4) - amended and § 4-211 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 511 Senator Waugh****TAXES – SALES AND USE TAX – REPEAL**

Providing that the sales and use tax does not apply to the sale of electricity, fuel, and other utilities used to operate a restaurant.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

TG, § 11-232 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 512**     **Senator Waugh****TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION OF TEACHERS IN MARYLAND**

Establishing the Task Force to Study the Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Teachers in Maryland ; providing for the membership, chair, and staff for the Task Force; providing that members of the Task Force may not receive specified compensation but are entitled to specified reimbursement for specified expenses; requiring that on or before June 1, 2017, the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 513**     **Senator Nathan–Pulliam, et al****MARYLAND NO–FAULT BIRTH INJURY FUND**

Establishing a system for adjudication of a claim involving a birth–related neurological injury; providing equitable compensation, on no–fault basis, for a limited class of catastrophic injuries that result in unusually high costs for custodial care and rehabilitation; establishing the Maryland No–Fault Birth Injury Fund to provide compensation and benefits to eligible claimants; providing for specified premiums and insurance surcharges to be used to finance and administer the Fund; applying the Act prospectively; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

CJ, §§ 3-2D-01 through 3-2D-08, HG, §§ 20-1701 and 20-1702, and IN, §§ 32-101 through 32-304 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Finance

**SB 514     Senator Madaleno****TOBACCO TAXES – HEALTHY MARYLAND INITIATIVE**

Requiring the Governor to include for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter an additional \$11,000,000 in annual appropriations for tobacco use prevention and cessation programs; altering the tobacco tax rates on cigarettes and other tobacco products; establishing the tobacco tax rates on cigarillos; clarifying that all cigarettes and other tobacco products used, possessed, or held in the State on or after July 1, 2016, are subject to the full tax enacted under the Act; etc.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

BR and TG, Various Sections - added and amended and HG, § 13-1015 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 515     Senator DeGrange****COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – PROCUREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF SCHOOL PROJECTS**

Making specified provisions of law concerning the advertising for bids for procurements costing more than \$25,000 applicable to construction or repair for public school projects in the State; and including construction and repair services under provisions of law concerning the award of procurement contracts, as specified.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

ED, §§ 1-101 and 5-112 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 516     Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – FIRE, RESCUE, AND AMBULANCE SERVICE – LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Providing that the County Commissioners of Washington County are the ultimate authority having jurisdiction over the provision of fire, rescue, and ambulance services in Washington County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

PLL of Washington Co, Art. 22, § 10-402 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 517 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – CONTRIBUTIONS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS – PROCESS**

Altering the process by which the County Commissioners of Washington County make contributions to specified nonprofit organizations in Washington County; altering the deadline for submission of applications for contributions; requiring the County Commissioners to hold a public hearing on the applications; authorizing the County Commissioners to remove specified organizations from a specified list and, on request by the organization, to revise or amend the name of an organization; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

PLL of Washington Co, Art. 22, § 1-108 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 518 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – COLLECTION OF FEES, CHARGES, PENALTIES, AND ASSESSMENTS**

Authorizing Washington County to include, for the purpose of collection, unpaid allocation fees, water and sewerage charges, penalties, and assessments on annual tax bills; and requiring that the fees, charges, penalties, and assessments be collected in the same manner as ordinary taxes, subject to the same interest and penalty for nonpayment as provided by law for the nonpayment of county taxes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

PLL of Washington Co, Art. 22, § 6-309 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 519 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS – MODIFICATIONS – LOCAL ENFORCEMENT**

Requiring Washington County to implement and enforce modifications of the Maryland Building Performance Standards adopted by the State no later than 6 months after adoption for specified portions of the Standards, starting with modifications that are effective on January 1, 2015, and every 6 years thereafter.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

PS, § 12-505 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 520 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – BOARD OF EDUCATION – MOTOR FUEL TAX REFUND**

Authorizing the Washington County Board of Education to claim a refund of motor fuel tax paid on motor fuel purchased for use in vehicles owned by the Washington County Board of Education.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

TG, § 13-901(f) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 521 Anne Arundel County Senators****ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – CHARITABLE GAMING**

Authorizing specified organizations in Anne Arundel County to conduct a card game, card tournament, or casino event under specified circumstances; requiring an organization to obtain a permit from the County Department of Inspections and Permits; requiring an organization that seeks a permit to meet specified requirements; requiring an individual who participates in or volunteers as an operator of a card game, card tournament, or casino event to be at least 21 years of age; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CR, §§ 13-404 and 13-408 - amended and § 13-404.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 522 Senator Reilly****SALES AND USE TAX – EXEMPTIONS – GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS**

Exempting from the sales and use tax a sale by a chartered organization of the Boy Scouts of America established in the State, or by a troop of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America established in the State.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

TG, § 11-204(b) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 523**     **Washington County Senators****ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – WASHINGTON COUNTY – LOCAL PENALTIES**

Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners of Washington County to impose a fine not exceeding \$200 on an employee of a holder of an alcoholic beverages license in the County if the employee violates a specified provision of law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

AB, § 31-2702 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 524**     **Senator Edwards****ALLEGANY COUNTY AND GARRETT COUNTY – BLACK BEARS – BAITING**

Prohibiting a person from taking or attempting to take black bears in Allegany County and Garrett County by the aid of baiting or within 150 yards of a baited area if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is a baited area; and providing that the Act does not prohibit the taking of black bears on specified crops, grain crops, or lands.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

NR, § 10-427 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 525**     **Senator Edwards****MARYLAND DORMANT MINERALS INTERESTS ACT – USE OF MINERAL INTEREST – CLARIFICATION**

Clarifying that when an owner of a mineral interest takes a specified action for a mineral that is part of a mineral interest, the action constitutes use of the entire mineral interest owned by that owner.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

EN, § 15-1203 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 526     Senator Bates****AGRICULTURE – DONATION OF COMMERCIAL FEED**

Altering the defined term “distribute” and defining “donation” as used in the Maryland Commercial Feed Law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

AG, § 6-101(h) - amended and § 6-101(i) - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 527     Senators Bates and Ready****CRIMINAL LAW – HUMAN TRAFFICKING – ADULT VICTIM – PENALTY**

Making the crime of human trafficking in a case in which the victim of the crime is an adult a felony, rather than a misdemeanor; and making a conforming change.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CR, § 11-303 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 528     Senator Bates, et al****GENERAL PROVISIONS – OPEN MEETINGS ACT – REQUIRED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

Expanding the scope of the training requirements under the Open Meetings Act to include all employees, officials, and members of a public body; requiring that specified individuals complete specified training within a specified time period; requiring each new and returning member of the General Assembly to take specified training; requiring the Office of the Attorney General to provide specified in-person training on or before the 10th day of the first regular session of each legislative term; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

GP, § 3-213 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs



**SB 529 Senator Bates, et al****OPEN MEETINGS ACT – REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING AGENDAS**

Requiring a public body to provide an agenda containing all available information regarding matters to be discussed at the open portion of a meeting and whether a portion of the meeting may be closed; requiring an agenda to be provided at least 24 hours before the meeting under specified circumstances; providing that specified information does not need to be included on the agenda; and authorizing methods by which a public body may provide the agenda.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

GP, § 3-302.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 530 Senator Eckardt****DORCHESTER COUNTY – CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE – MINIMUM SEATING REQUIREMENT**

Altering the minimum seating requirement from 50 to 25 individuals for facilities for which a specified Class B beer, wine, and liquor license may be issued in Dorchester County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

AB, § 19-902 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 531 Senator McFadden, et al****INMATES – LIFE IMPRISONMENT – PAROLE REFORM**

Repealing specified provisions that provide that inmates serving a term of life imprisonment may be paroled only with the Governor's approval, subject to specified provisions; repealing specified provisions that require specified parole decisions to be transmitted to the Governor under specified circumstances; repealing specified provisions that authorize the Governor to disapprove specified parole decisions in a specified manner; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CS, §§ 4-305(b) and 7-301(d) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 532 Senator McFadden****CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM – MEMBERSHIP  
– CORRECTIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST**

Altering the membership of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System to include correctional case management specialists; authorizing individuals serving as correctional case management specialists to transfer membership to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System; requiring those individuals to deposit specified amounts in the annuity savings fund of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

SP, §§ 25-201, 25-202, and 25-401 - amended and §§ 25-203.2 and 29-302(g) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 533 Senator Pinsky****EDUCATION – ADMINISTRATION OF ASSESSMENTS – PROVISION  
OF INFORMATION**

Requiring each county board of education to provide information relating to each assessment administered in a local school system that includes the title, purpose, grade level or subject area tested, testing window, and accommodations for students with special needs; requiring this information to be updated annually, posted online, and included in the county board's comprehensive master plan updates; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

ED, § 7-203.3 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 534 Senator Klausmeier****WORKERS' COMPENSATION – PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY –  
COMPENSATION**

Decreasing the amount of the maximum weekly benefit for a permanent partial disability claim arising from events occurring on or after January 1, 2017, that is awarded to a covered employee for less than 75 weeks; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

LE, § 9-628 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 535 Senator Klausmeier****OFFICE OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT – CEMETERY FINANCIAL STATEMENT – REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring a specified financial statement required to be submitted by a specified cemetery to the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight to contain a balance sheet from the most recent federal tax return filed by the business, or on a form specified by the Director; and repealing the requirement that a specified financial statement contain a specified statement by a certified public accountant and a review of the financial stability of the cemetery by a certified public accountant.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

BR, § 5-304 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 536 Senator Klausmeier****OFFICE OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT – PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUNDS – REPORT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT**

Increasing from 120 to 150 days the time period within which a sole proprietor registered cemeterian, specified permit holders, or specified other persons subject to specified perpetual care trust requirements are required to submit a specified report regarding a specified perpetual care trust fund to the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

BR, § 5-606 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 537 Senator Klausmeier****DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM – MODIFICATIONS**

Requiring that specified authorized providers and prescribers be registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program before obtaining a new or renewal controlled dangerous substance registration or by July 1, 2017, whichever is sooner; requiring that pharmacists be registered with the Program by July 1, 2017; altering the mission of the Program; authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to identify and publish a list of monitored prescription drugs that have low potential for abuse; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CR, § 5-304 - amended and HG, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 538 Senator Conway****DENTAL HYGIENISTS – SCOPE OF PRACTICE – AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTISTS**

Altering a specified provision of law to provide that a general license to practice dental hygiene authorizes the licensee to practice dental hygiene under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in a specified facility with a population that lacks direct access to dental care, rather than only in a long-term care facility; altering the requirements that a dental hygienist is required to meet before being authorized to practice dental hygiene under general supervision of a licensed dentist in a specified facility; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

HO, § 4-308(m) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 539 Senator Conway****REAL ESTATE BROKERS – LICENSURE REQUIREMENT – EXEMPTION FOR LAWYERS**

Altering an exemption from the real estate broker licensure requirement for specified lawyers under specified circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

BOP, § 17-301 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 540 Senator Conway****MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – STUDENT HOUSING**

Prohibiting the Board of Regents of Morgan State University from entering into any contract for student housing that is located in the 1500 block of Havenwood Road in Baltimore City unless the Hillen Road Improvement Association approves.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

ED, § 14-104(g) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 541 Senator Feldman****PORTABLE ELECTRONICS INSURANCE – REQUIRED NOTICES – METHOD OF MAILING**

Altering the method of mailing that an insurer or a vendor is required to use when the insurer or vendor sends to a policyholder or covered customer specified notices about a termination or any other change in the terms and conditions of a policy of portable electronics insurance.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

IN, § 19-903(h)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 542 Senator Feldman****STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM – FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS**

Establishing that specified public employees who are specified State officers may be subject to forfeiture of benefits from the State Retirement and Pension System; prohibiting the payment of benefits to a public employee who is found guilty of, pleads guilty to, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to a qualifying crime; prohibiting the forfeiture of benefits if the forfeiture negatively affects or invalidates the tax qualified status of a plan within the State Retirement and Pension System; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

SP, § 21-502 - amended and §§ 21-701 through 21-709 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 543 Senator Middleton****VIDEO LOTTERY FACILITIES – CHARLES COUNTY – EXPANSION AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

Authorizing the awarding of an additional video lottery operation license for a facility in Charles County in a vessel on the Potomac River; specifying that specified proceeds from video lottery terminals and table games at the facility be paid to the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge Fund; submitting the Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; etc.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

SG, §§ 9-1A-05(a) and (d), 9-1A-24, 9-1A-27, and 9-1A-36(f), (h), (i)(1), (r)(1), and (t) - amended and § 9-1A-30.1 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 544 Senator Middleton****MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE – INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARD – CARRYING PROOF OF COVERAGE – UNINSURED MOTORIST EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT FUND**

Requiring a specified insurer to provide a specified insurance identification card to specified insureds at specified times; providing that an insurance identification card may be produced in a specified electronic format; requiring a specified operator to be in possession of or carry in the motor vehicle at specified times specified evidence of required security; requiring that a specified operator is subject to a fine of \$50 under specified circumstances; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

IN, § 19-503.1 and TR, § 17-104.2 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 545 Senator Pugh, et al****LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – APPRENTICESHIP CAREER TRAINING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS (ACTION) PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Altering and renaming the Construction Apprenticeship Assistance Program to establish the Apprenticeship Career Training in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) Program; altering the purpose and method for administering the Program; requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to administer the Program; establishing specified standards under which specified employers may be eligible to receive grants; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

LE, § 11-601 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 546 Senator Pugh, et al****TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR EX-OFFENDERS – REPEAL OF RESTRICTIONS**

Repealing specified provisions of law subjecting specified individuals convicted of specified felonies involving a controlled dangerous substance who apply for or receive temporary cash assistance or food stamps to specified testing and treatment requirements and sanctions; repealing a specified provision of law making a specified individual ineligible for temporary cash assistance or food stamps for 1 year after conviction; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

HU, § 5-601 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 547 Senator Pugh, et al****EX-OFFENDERS RECIDIVISM REDUCTION ACT**

Requiring an authority, to the maximum extent practicable, to provide access to public housing for ex-offenders; requiring an authority to avoid denying the eligibility of an individual based on a misdemeanor conviction or other specified offenses under specified circumstances; and requiring an authority to develop specified guidance regarding eligibility for tenants with a criminal history.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

HS, § 12-406 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 548 Senator Pugh****BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS – CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR PRACTICING BARBERING OR COSMETOLOGY WITHOUT LICENSE – REPEAL**

Repealing specified criminal penalties for violations of the barbering law and for violations of the cosmetology law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

BOP, §§ 4-607 and 5-609 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 549 Senator Pugh, et al****VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION OF TERMINATION DATE**

Altering the membership of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council; and extending the termination date of specified provisions of law that establish and govern the Council to September 30, 2019.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

HG, § 13-3203, Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2013, § 2, and Chapter 306 of the Acts of 2013, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 550 Senator Pugh, et al****TASK FORCE TO STUDY ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IN THE STATE**

Establishing the Task Force to Study Access to Dental Care in the State; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving specified compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of specified expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding specified matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 30, 2016; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 551 Senator Pugh, et al****DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE – CLINICAL CRISIS WALK-IN SERVICES AND MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS – STRATEGIC PLAN**

Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with specified agencies and specified health providers, to develop a strategic plan for ensuring that specified crisis services and specified teams are available statewide and operating in a specified manner; requiring the Department to submit a specified strategic plan to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2016; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 552 Senator Pugh, et al****BALTIMORE CITY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS**

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to grant, by law, a specified property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on a specified dwelling in Baltimore City that is owned by a specified public safety officer under specified circumstances; providing that the credit may not exceed \$2,500 and may not be granted to more than one public safety officer per dwelling; prohibiting a specified recipient of the property tax credit from receiving specified other property tax credits; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

TP, § 9-304(i) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation



**SB 553**     **Senator Astle, et al****PRIVATE PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE –  
ENHANCED UNDERINSURED MOTORIST COVERAGE**

Authorizing a specified insured to elect to obtain specified enhanced underinsured motorist coverage, instead of specified uninsured motorist coverage, under a private passenger motor vehicle liability insurance policy under specified circumstances; requiring specified insurers to offer enhanced underinsured motorist coverage under specified circumstances; providing for the characteristics of that enhanced underinsured motorist coverage; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

IN, §§ 19-509, 19-509.2, 19-510, 19-511, and 19-513 and TR, § 17-103(b) - amended and IN, §§ 19-509.1, 19-510.1, and 19-511.1 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 554**     **Senator Pinsky****UNITED STATES SENATOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND  
COMPTROLLER – APPOINTMENTS TO FILL A VACANCY**

Requiring the Governor to appoint an individual to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator, Attorney General, or Comptroller from a list of names submitted by the State Central Committee of the political party of the vacating officeholder; requiring individuals whose names are submitted to the Governor to have been affiliated with the political party of the vacating officeholder before the vacancy occurred; etc.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT – VARIOUS  
EFFECTIVE DATES**

EL, § 8-602 and Maryland Constitution, Art. V, § 5 and Art. VI, § 1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 555 Senator Pinsky****ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMPTROLLER – SPECIAL ELECTIONS  
TO FILL A VACANCY**

Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to require an individual appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the offices of either the Attorney General or the Comptroller to serve until a successor is elected to fill the remainder of the term, except in specified circumstances; requiring an individual appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the offices of either the Attorney General or the Comptroller to serve for the remainder of the term if the vacancy occurs after a specified date; etc.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT**

Maryland Constitution, Art. V, § 5 and Art. VI, § 1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 556 Senator Mathias****PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE – RESCISSION OF POLICY OR  
BINDER – MISREPRESENTATIONS BY APPLICANT**

Authorizing an insurer to rescind a policy or binder of personal automobile insurance if an applicant makes specified misrepresentations; requiring the insurer to provide specified notice to an applicant that specified insurance coverage may be rescinded under specified circumstances; requiring an insurer to take specified actions before rescinding specified insurance coverage; applying the Act to all policies and binders of personal automobile insurance issued or delivered in the State on or after October 1, 2016; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

IN, § 12-106(k) - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 557**     **Senator Astle****MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MARYLAND DEFENSE  
FORCE – EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS –  
ENFORCEMENT**

Authorizing members of the National Guard and Maryland Defense Force whose employment and reemployment rights have been violated to bring a civil action for specified economic damages; and authorizing a court to award specified damages, fees, costs, and other relief to members of the National Guard and Maryland Defense Force if the court determines that the member's employment and reemployment rights were violated.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

PS, § 13-704 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 558**     **Senator Ferguson, et al****BALTIMORE REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM –  
CODIFIED**

Establishing the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program; providing for the administration and purpose of the Program; establishing the types of community enhancement projects eligible to receive Program funds; authorizing specified community development organizations to apply to receive Program funds; requiring a community development organization's application to contain specified information; requiring the Governor to include a \$12,000,000 appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Fund; etc.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

HS, §§ 6-501 through 6-510 - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)84. and 85. - amended and § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)86. - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 559**     **Senator Ferguson****DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT –  
STRATEGIC DEMOLITION AND SMART GROWTH IMPACT FUND –  
ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund is to provide grants and loans to assist in predevelopment activities, including demolition, land assembly, architecture and engineering, and site development for revitalization projects in the State; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer the Fund; requiring the Governor to include, beginning in fiscal year 2018 and yearly thereafter, a \$20,000,000 appropriation to the Fund: etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

HS, § 4-508 - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)84. and 85. - amended and § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)86. - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 560**     **Senator Ferguson, et al****ONE MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS –  
BUSINESS INCUBATORS AND REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC  
ENTERPRISE ZONES**

Altering specified eligibility criteria for specified credits under the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit to include specified persons who establish or expand a business facility located in specified areas that, for business incubators, creates a specified aggregate number of qualified positions at the facility under specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

EC, §§ 6-401(b), 6-402, 6-403(a), (e), and (f), 6-404, and 6-405 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 561**     **Senator Ferguson****BALTIMORE CITY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS C BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSES**

Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue Class C beer, wine, and liquor licenses in specified locations in Baltimore City; and altering the areas for which the Board may waive specified distance restrictions between a building for which a license is transferred and a place of worship or school.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

AB, §§ 12-1603 and 12-1605(a) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 562**     **Senator Ferguson****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – BALTIMORE CITY – CREATIVE ALLIANCE PROJECT**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$600,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Fells Point Creative Alliance, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Creative Alliance facility, located in Baltimore City; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 563**     **Senator Ferguson****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – BALTIMORE CITY – PORT DISCOVERY CHILDREN’S MUSEUM**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of The Baltimore Children’s Museum, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Port Discovery Children’s Museum, located in Baltimore City; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 564**     **Senator Feldman, et al****CRIMINAL LAW – PROVIDING ALCOHOL TO UNDERAGE DRINKERS  
– PENALTIES**

Increasing penalties for a first offense to a maximum imprisonment of 1 year or a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or both for the violation of specified prohibitions relating to obtaining or furnishing alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of 21 years or allowing an individual under the age of 21 years to possess or consume alcoholic beverages under specified circumstances; increasing penalties for a second or subsequent offense of specified violations to a maximum imprisonment of 2 years or a fine not to exceed \$7,500 or both.  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CR, § 10-121 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 565**     **Senator Cassilly****CIVIL ACTIONS – OFFERS OF JUDGMENT**

Making provisions of law relating to an offer of judgment in an action for a medical injury applicable to all civil actions; altering a specified definition; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CJ, § 11-113 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 566**     **Senator Cassilly****MEDICAL MALPRACTICE – NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE CLAIM**

Prohibiting a claim against a health care provider for damage due to a medical injury from being filed with the Director of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office unless, at least 90 days before filing the claim, the claimant has given a notice of intent to file a claim to the health care provider; requiring the notice to include specified information and to be served on the health care provider at a specified address; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CJ, § 3-2A-04(a) - amended and § 3-2A-04(a-1) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 567 Senator Cassilly****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – HARFORD COUNTY – CENTER FOR THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AMPHITHEATER**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$200,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts Amphitheater, located in Harford County; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 568 Senator Gladden****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – BALTIMORE CITY – MARYLAND STATE SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HEADQUARTERS**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$75,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Maryland State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Maryland State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Headquarters facility, located in Baltimore City; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 569 Senator Gladden****METHADONE TREATMENT FACILITIES – LOCATION – LIMITATIONS**

Prohibiting a methadone treatment facility from being established or operated within 500 feet of specified schools, child care centers, or agencies unless the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene receives a letter of support for the location of the facility from specified schools, child care centers, and agencies; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

HG, § 8-402 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 570 Senator Lee****MARYLAND TRUST ACT – REPRESENTATION**

Providing that, if a minor, an incapacitated, unborn, or unknown individual, or an individual whose location is unknown and not reasonably ascertainable is not otherwise represented under a specified provision of law relating to specified trusts, a grandparent or more remote ancestor may represent and bind that individual in specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

ET, § 14.5-303 - amended and § 14.5-304 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 571 Senator Lee****MARYLAND TRUST ACT – NONJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

Authorizing, on or after October 1, 2016, specified interested persons to enter into a binding nonjudicial settlement agreement with respect to a matter involving a trust; providing that the nonjudicial settlement agreement is valid only to a specified extent; authorizing an interested person to request a court to make specified determinations with respect to the agreement; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

ET, § 14.5-111 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 572 Senator Kelley, et al****BALTIMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – APPOINTMENTS BY GOVERNOR – ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE**

Providing that the members of the Baltimore County Board of Education appointed by the Governor are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

ED, § 3-2A-01 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs



**SB 573**     **Senator Mathias, et al****MOTOR VEHICLES – GROSS WEIGHT AND AXLE LOAD – POULTRY**

Exempting a specified combination of vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer from specified gross weight limits; establishing the gross weight limit for a specified combination of vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer that are carrying poultry under specified circumstances; and authorizing a specified combination of vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer to have a specified axle load limit tolerance and gross weight limit tolerance under specified circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

TR, § 24-109 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 574**     **Senator Ramirez****CIVIL ACTIONS – NONECONOMIC DAMAGES – CATASTROPHIC INJURY**

Altering the maximum amount of noneconomic damages that may be recovered in health care malpractice and other civil actions for a catastrophic injury under specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CJ, §§ 3-2A-09(a) and (b) and 11-108 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 575**     **Senator Ramirez****COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – LIMIT ON LIABILITY**

Increasing to \$400,000 per claim the limit on liability of a county board of education; increasing to \$400,000 per occurrence the minimum amount of liability coverage that a county board must maintain and for which the State Board of Education must establish standards; applying the Act prospectively; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

CJ, § 5-518(b) and (c) and ED, § 4-105 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 576**     **Senator Ramirez****GENERAL ASSEMBLY – FISCAL NOTES – CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
POLICY IMPACT STATEMENTS**

Requiring a fiscal note for a bill to include a criminal justice policy impact statement if the bill creates a criminal offense, significantly alters the elements of an existing criminal offense, alters the penalties applicable to a criminal offense, or changes existing sentencing, parole, or probation procedures; requiring the Department of Legislative Services to prepare the criminal justice policy impact statement by requesting information from specified entities; etc.  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

SG, § 2-1505(e) - amended

Assigned to: Senate Rules

**SB 577**     **Senator Ramirez****CHILD PROTECTION – REPORTING – THREAT OF HARM**

Authorizing an individual to notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency if the individual has reason to believe that a verbal threat of imminent severe bodily harm or death to a child has been made by a specified individual and that the child is at substantial risk of child abuse; specifying the procedures and requirements for a report concerning a verbal threat of harm to a child; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

FL, §§ 5-704.1 and 5-706.2 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 578**     **Senator Ramirez****DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF**

Altering the definition of “person eligible for relief” in provisions relating to domestic violence.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

FL, § 4-501(m) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 579**     **Senator Ramirez****VEHICLE LAWS – APPLICATION – PARK MODEL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – DEFINITION**

Establishing that a park model recreational vehicle is considered to be a travel trailer for the purposes of the Maryland Vehicle Law; defining the term “park model recreational vehicle”; and making specified conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2016

CL, §§ 12-1003(c)(2)(i)3. and 14-2301(f)(1), TG, § 11-104(c)(1), and TR, § 11-170 - amended and TR, § 1-144.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 580**     **Senator King, et al****CONSTITUTION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT – LEGAL NOTICES**

Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution allowing a charter county to publish specified notices of county legislation in a manner specified by the General Assembly; and submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT**

Maryland Constitution, Art. XI-A, § 3 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 581**     **Senator King, et al****LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – LEGAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

Authorizing a county or municipality to satisfy a requirement to publish legal notices in a newspaper of general circulation by posting the notices on its Web site; requiring notices posted on a county or municipality Web site to be displayed conspicuously and be easily accessible; requiring a county or municipality that chooses to post notices on the Internet to publish specified advance notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

LG, § 1-1312 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 582     Senator King****EDUCATION – ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Robotics Grant Program to provide grants to public schools in the State to support and expand existing robotics programs; establishing eligibility requirements for the Program; requiring the Governor to include in the State budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Program; requiring the State Department of Education to implement and administer the Program; and authorizing the Department to adopt specified regulations.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

ED, § 7-121 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 583     Senator King, et al****HIGHER EDUCATION – UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND – QUASI-ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

Authorizing the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland to make a one-time transfer of no more than \$50,000,000 from the State-supported fund balance to a quasi-endowment fund; and limiting the use of specified proceeds to specified purposes.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

ED, § 12-104(e)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 584     Senator King, et al****PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS – EXPANSION GRANTS – REQUIRED STATE FUNDING**

Requiring the Governor to include in the State budget specified funding in a specified amount for each fiscal year in which the State Department of Education receives an Expansion Grant through the federal Preschool Development Grants Program.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

ED, § 7-101.3 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 585**     **Senator King, et al****TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES – DISTRIBUTION TO MUNICIPALITIES**

Altering the authorized uses of highway user revenues; repealing obsolete distributions of highway user revenues to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities for specified fiscal years; requiring that specified additional distributions of highway user revenues be made under specified circumstances to municipalities in specified fiscal years for specified purposes; requiring that specified additional distributions of highway user revenues be allocated among municipalities in a specified manner; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

TR, §§ 8-402 and 8-403 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 586**     **Senator King, et al****DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE – REGIONAL INSTITUTES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS – REPORT BEFORE CLOSURE**

Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to submit a report, justifying the closure, to the Governor and specified legislative committees before a regional institute for children and adolescents may be closed; requiring the report to address specified items; and requiring the committees to have 60 days to review and comment on the report.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

HG, § 10-406 - amended

Assigned to: Finance